

## Interdisciplinary Practice Workgroup Workplan

**WORKGROUP PURPOSE:** Identify, assess, facilitate and support the organization and conduct of comprehensive, high-quality interdisciplinary practices to promote positive MCH outcomes in the training programs and in community-related activities. This will include a focus on the role of MCH leadership in promoting interdisciplinary care and the role of research in promoting evidence-based interdisciplinary practices.

WORKPLAN				
PRIORITY Workgroup Activities	Action Steps	Strategies for Implementation	Persons Responsible (for initiating activity)	Time frame
1. Develop guidance for research projects that address the effectiveness of MCH interdisciplinary training  (GOAL 5-Objective 6)	Review example guidance and definitions from MCHB.			
	Identify what evidence is needed to demonstrate ‘effective’ interdisciplinary training.			
	Identify key research questions and core elements to be addressed by the research projects.			
	Make recommendations to MCHB for program guidance to assess the nature, extent and effectiveness of MCH interdisciplinary training.			
2. Define interdisciplinary practice  (GOAL 3-Objective 1)	Identify definitions of interdisciplinary practice used in current literature and throughout the training program.			
	Identify operational definitions of interdisciplinary practice currently used by grantees.			
	Identify core elements to be included in the definition.			
	Recommend definition of “interdisciplinary practice” (including rationale) to MCHB.			

WORKPLAN				
PRIORITY Workgroup Activities	Action Steps	Strategies for Implementation	Persons Responsible (for initiating activity)	Time frame
3. Identify mechanisms to assess effectiveness of interdisciplinary training, including the impact on quality and cost benefit of the approach. <i>(GOAL 5- Objective 6)</i>	Determine how programs are currently measuring interdisciplinary training.			
	Utilizing outcomes of Activity 1 collaborate with Reporting and Monitoring Workgroup to identify what evidence is needed for programs to demonstrate effective interdisciplinary training; What do we want to measure?			
	Review draft indicators developed by Reporting and monitoring workgroup.			
	Provide feedback to Reporting and Monitoring Workgroup on draft indicators to be used to measure interdisciplinary training.			
	Work with reporting and monitoring workgroup to draft recommendations to MCHB regarding reporting requirements for draft measurement.			

<b>ADDITIONAL WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Workgroup Activity</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Strategies for Implementation</b>	<b>Persons Responsible (for initiating activity)</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
4. Inventory existing materials on MCH Interdisciplinary training  <i>(GOAL 3 – Objective1)</i>	Identify interdisciplinary training materials currently available (including videos, discussion guides, articles, curricula, etc).			
	Develop criteria for assessment of materials.			
	Review and assess materials.			
	Recommend, with rationale, materials to be posted as Interdisciplinary Resources on Training Program Web site.			
5. Make recommendations to MCHB for new interdisciplinary training materials  <i>(GOAL 3- Objective 1)</i>	Identify specific issues for interdisciplinary training facing grantees.			
	Based on issues identified and outcome of Activity 4, identify gaps in interdisciplinary resources (including materials, training and technical assistance) needed for grantees to provide effective interdisciplinary training.			
	Identify priority topics for development of new interdisciplinary materials.			
	Recommend to MCHB methods by which to encourage grantee access to and use of new information and training.			
6. Identify promising strategies for enhancing the role of family members in interdisciplinary training.  <i>(GOAL 3- Objective 1)</i>	Identify institutions that are successfully involving family members in interdisciplinary training in an enhanced role (explore how ‘success’ and ‘enhanced role’ is defined)			
	Identify promising strategies for enhanced family involvement in interdisciplinary training.			

	Make recommendations to MCHB for promising strategies to be posted on the MCH Training Program Website			
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## MCH Training Priority Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Related to Interdisciplinary Practice

**GOAL 3 -Objective 1:** By 2010, increase the proportion of MCH long-term students/fellows who have experience in interdisciplinary training that reflects the needs of children and families, in both classroom and field settings. (Identify baseline and target by 2006.)

*MCHB Activities:*

1. Convene an interdisciplinary ad hoc group to promote effective interdisciplinary training to meet the service needs of the MCH population
2. Support a project to inventory existing materials on MCH interdisciplinary training, identify gaps, and develop and disseminate new materials as needed.
3. Develop a mechanism to share promising practices for enhancing the role of family members in interdisciplinary training

**GOAL 5- Objective 6:** By 2010, increase by 5 the number of research projects that address the effectiveness of MCH interdisciplinary training, including the impact on quality and cost benefit of the approach. (Identify baseline by 2005.)

*MCHB Activity:* Initiate a new research priority on the effectiveness of MCH interdisciplinary training.